

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02395 121242Z

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R 121210Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2360

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PINS, PGOV, SGEN, MORG, SU

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI TAKES STEPS TO TIGHTEN CONTROL

1. TWO NEWS ITEMS IN AUG 12 NEWSPAPERS INDICATE NIMEIRI TAKING STEPS TO TIGHTEN HIS POLITICAL CONTROL WITHIN SUDAN. NEW SYG SSU MAJOR ABUL GASIM, ACCOMPAINED BY MINISTER INTERIOR IN SOUTHERN REGIONAL CAPITAL OF JUBA, ANNOUNCED THAT A NATIONAL GUARD WOULD BE FORMED. IT WOULD BE UNDER SUPERVISION OF REGULAR ARMED FORCES, WOULD BE NATION-WIDE AND WOULD HAVE INITIAL SIZE OF 25,000 MEN. ABUL GASIM ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A POPULAR POLICE, FRIENDS OF THE POLICE AND YOUTH MILITIA, WILL BE SET UP UNDER SSU SUPERVISION TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIED DEFENSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN INSTALLATIONS SITES. HE SAID THAT ALL PEOPLE WORKING IN RADIO OMDURMAN WILL BE TRAINED AND ARMED WITHIN TWO MONTHS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND BROADCASTING STATION OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN.

2. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENTS, MINISTER SOCIAL AFFAIRS HAS ISSUED MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION DISSOLVING 17 PUBLIC
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02395 121242Z

WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING SUDANESE RED CRESCENT

ASSN, NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MENTAL HEALTH, JUVENILE WELFARE SOCIETY AND OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS. ALSO INCLUDED WAS PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THESE SOCIETIES SHALL BECOME PREPARATORY COMMITTEES TO RE-LIST MEMBERS, AUDIT THEIR RESPECTIVE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNTS AND SUBMIT RESULTANT INFORMATION TOGETHER WITH CONSTITUTION OR BASIC RULES TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR REREGISTRATION, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN AUG 11 AND SEP 26. THIS WILL BE DONE UNDER GENERAL SUPERVISION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY U/SEC SOCIAL WELFARE.

3. COMMENT: FOR PAST FEW WEEKS NIMEIRI HAS MENTIONED MORE THAN ONCE NEED FOR VIGILANCE AT LOCAL LEVEL. HIS PURPOSE IN CREATING NATIONAL GUARD AND MILITIA APPEARS TO BE TO MEET THIS NEED. WITH RESPECT TO DISSOLUTION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES, WE SUSPECT THIS IS RATHER ELABORATE PROCEDURE TO "CLEANSE" ONE OR TWO ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MAY BE SUSPECT. WE UNDERSTAND PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT IS ONE SUCH ORGANIZATION. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR NIMEIRI DISBANDED SEVERAL TRIBAL, ATHLETIC AND FRIENDSHIP ORGANIZATIONS. IT APPEARS THAT MOST SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS, WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT NIMEIRI WANTS TO BE SURE THEY CAN BE FULLY TRUSTED.

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